



*The*  
**Alberta**  
**Temple**



*Cardston, Alberta*  
*Canada*

# The Alberta Temple

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints believes in a literal resurrection of the body. The Church also believes that after the resurrection of the body, the same relationships of husband and wife, parent and child, will still exist, provided these relationships are properly entered into by the contracting parties. It is in the Temples of the Church that these sacred contracts are entered into, and sealed.

There are in the Church today eight Temples. These are located at Salt Lake City, Logan, Mantz and St. George in the State of Utah; one at Mesa, Arizona, one near Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands, one at Idaho Falls, Idaho, the Alberta Temple at Cardston, and one now nearing completion in California. Work is progressing on one in Switzerland, and work is about ready to commence on one near London, England.

## HISTORICAL

Cardston was settled in the year 1887 by President Charles Ora Card. He and his company of sturdy pioneers, seeing the advantages of making a home on the prairies and yet near the mountains, chose the site of Cardston on which to

settle. At present the town has a population of nearly 2,700 people. It has more public buildings (not including the Temple) than any point in this end of the province. These are as follows: a large High School, a six-room Public School, three new cottage schools, Court House, Post Office and Dept. of Indian Affairs buildings, five churches including the newly completed Alberta State House, finished in 1954, two hospitals, and a large modern Social Centre, large enough for all popular games as well as accommodating about 400 couples in the dance; this building also contains store rooms, offices and refreshment counter, a large stage with accompanying dressing rooms, etc. The Town of Cardston owns its water, lighting and sewerage systems, and now occupies a very beautiful Town Hall.

The ground for the Alberta Temple was broken Nov. 5, 1913, the corner stone laid Sept. 19, 1915, and the cap stone Sept. 27, 1917. The Temple was dedicated Aug. 26, 1923, by the President of the Church, Heber J. Grant.

## CONSTRUCTION

The foundation is reinforced concrete 32 feet deep and 12 feet wide at the base. The Temple from foundation to cap stone is 110 feet high. The building proper is 148 x 148 feet. The white granite used in

the construction is from the upper Kootenay Valley, in British Columbia. The largest stone in the building is over the west entrance to the Temple and weighs 10 tons.

## **DECORATION**

Before the gate entrance is the frieze of granite cement depicting "Christ and the Samaritan Woman at the Well." This is the design and workmanship of Prof. T. S. Knaphus, as is the baptismal font inside the Temple.

The characteristic decorative feature of this Temple is the wood finish for each room. The lower rooms and first lecture room are of oak finish with the latter having mural panels illustrating the earth's creative periods. The second lecture room is done in bird's eye maple with paintings illustrating Garden of Eden scenes. Walnut finish gives a more sombre color to the third room with local mountain scenes most prominent. The next room is finished in African mahogany and mural scenes are illustrative of our Saviour's death and resurrection. Paintings in each room conform in color to the wood used.

## **HEARTS MUST BE PURE**

The ethical poem in bronze tablets on either side of the entrance was composed by the late Orson F. Whitney, the Mormon "Milton", a member of the Quorum

of Twelve Apostles of the Church, and is as follows:

Hearts must be pure to come within these walls,  
Where spreads a feast unknown to festive halls,  
Freely partake, for freely God hath given,  
And taste the holy joys that tell of heaven.

Here learn of Him who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And unto men the keys, the Kingdom gave;  
Joined here by powers that past and present bind,  
The living and the dead perfection find.

## PURPOSE OF TEMPLES

A Temple to a Latter-Day Saint is not a house for general assemblies. Churches are found in every ward where public worship and meetings are regularly held at appointed times. A Temple is an edifice where members of the Church, who are in good standing, officiate in person for the living, and by proxy for those who are dead, in Priesthood ordinations, baptismal rites and in marriage ceremonies. These labors call for the faithful service of both men and women who come duly recommended by their presiding officers in the districts where they reside.

## THE INTERIOR

Upon entering the building, there are two large halls, one for men and one for women, for placing of hats, coats, etc. The Assembly Room is next entered, where brief devotional exercises are held consisting of hymns, short addresses and

prayer, which prepare all for the sacred work to follow. After the introductory ordinances are finished, participants ascend through the beautiful baptistry with its font resting on the backs of twelve oxen cast in granite cement and facing the four groups of polished pillars — Tennessee marble — 25 feet high, with mural paintings illustrative of the dispensations of Adam, Moses, our Saviour and the modern prophet, Joseph Smith, to the first lecture room. Here the story of our earth-life is begun and unfolded in each of the succeeding rooms. The great principle of man's opportunity for eternal progression through obedience being symbolized by upward steps from each floor to the next in order.

Automatic electrically-lighted vaults are provided for the storing of typewritten copies of the record for each day's proceedings.

The inside walls are all of plaster of paris finish covered with heavy linen cloth of avoid checking. The floors are of tile treated concrete covered with the best Axminster rugs in plain colors, and the draperies of silk mohair plush. All light fixtures are specially designed. The entire building is heated from a main power house under thermostatic control with concealed radiators and air conditioning.

## CONCLUSION

It will be understood from the above brief description of the Alberta Temple (the first to be erected on British soil) that a Temple is not built for the ordinary human life span, but is for the spiritual development of generations yet to come and for the salvation of the dead through the vicarious plan revealed to man specifically in our day. Therefore no means were spared in obtaining the best skilled artists and workmen and the most enduring materials are used in its construction. The total cost of this Temple and its decorations and furnishings was nearly one million dollars.

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## ARTICLES OF FAITH

**Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: First, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth Laying on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by "prophecy and by the laying on of hands" by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the primitive church — namely, Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, etc.

7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

8. We believe the Bible to be the Word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God.

9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion will be built upon this (the American) continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisaical glory.

11. We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where or what they may.

12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.

13. We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul, "We believe all things, we hope all things." We have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.—JOSEPH SMITH.



## INFORMATION ABOUT CARDSTON

Cardston is the centre of one of the best grain growing districts in Alberta, supporting more than twenty-five elevators. The annual wheat production alone averages well over two million bushels. In addition, the District is noted for its Dairy Products, Poultry, Sheep and Wool production, its Hogs and Beef Cattle. Three irrigation districts, the U. I. D., serving Glenwood, Hillebrand and Hartley districts; the Mt. View Irrigation District serving Mt. View and Leavitt areas, and the Aetna Irrigation District, serving the area south and east of Cardston. The St. Mary's River, just two miles east of Cardston, furnishes the water for the gigantic St. Mary's River Irrigation District which extends east clear to Medicine Hat.

Cardston is the Trade Centre for nearly 10,000 people, and has three banks and some 90 to 100 business houses, including hotels and motels for the accommodation of visitors. There are numerous tourist attractions in the town, the premier one being the "Mormon" Temple, which is the only one in Canada, and is

famed for its beauty and wonderful construction. Another feature is the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, within an hour's drive of Cardston. This park is in the wonderland of the Canadian Rockies, and no visitor here should fail to go on to "Wonderful Waterton".

The St. Mary's River dam itself is just 15 miles northeast of Cardston, and a surfaced highway goes within two miles of it. Said to be the second largest earth dam in the world, this structure is worth a visit. It backs up a lake more than 12 miles in length.